

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Satoshi KONDO et al.

Serial No. NEW : Attn: Application Branch

Filed January 19, 2001 : Attorney Docket No. 2001-0040A

IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND
IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced U.S. Patent application please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

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9. (Amended) An image processing method as defined in Claim 1 further comprising:
image decoding step of decoding an image code sequence to generate a decoded image;
said noise detection step of performing noise detection using information included in the image code sequence; and
said noise removal step of removing noise from the decoded image obtained in the image decoding step, on the basis of the result of the noise detection.

10. (Amended) An image processing method as defined in Claim 1, wherein said noise is one of blocking artifact and ringing artifact.